

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 4, 2008 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, S. Hoag, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger, and W. O'Connor.

CTEC'S PURPOSE (N.J.S.A. 40:56A, 1968): to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2008 was published in the Chatham Courier & Daily Record newspapers and posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

Minutes

Minutes from February 5, 2008 meeting were approved as amended. S. Hoag motioned to accept and S. Carroll 2nd with all in favor.

Events

Sat., March 8, 2008. 8 AM-5 PM. New Jersey Conservation Foundation Annual Rally. Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick. <http://www.njconservation.org/>. \$90.

Sat., March 15, 2008. 9 AM - 12:30 PM, Clifton City Hall, 900 Clifton Ave., Clifton, NJ. ANJEC training workshop for new EC members. Free for CTEC members. P. Collington is planning to attend and will give a ride to anyone who wants to go.

March 10, 15, 29, 2008, Environmental Commission Training. ANJEC workshop for new EC members. Every EC member should attend this workshop at least once. Visit www.anjec.org for more information. Free for EC members.

Tues., March 11, 2008. 8-9:30 AM. GSWA Briefing Breakfast, "How the Highlands Act Impacts You", speaker Julia Somers, GSWA office at 568 Tempe Wick Rd., Morristown. 973-538-3500. Free.

Thurs., March 13, 2008. 7:30 PM. CTEC Annual Report will be presented at the Chatham Township Committee meeting.

Friday, March 14, 9:30-11 AM. COAH presentation by Commissioner Joseph Doria of the Dept. of Community Affairs. Cranford Town Hall, 8 Springfield Ave. 973-992-8800.

Monday, March 24, 2008. 7-8:30 PM. **Be Heard!**, Great Swamp Watershed Association Citizen Advocacy Program on how to be heard and get results when dealing with municipal or regional officials. Short presentation followed by question and answer session with speaker and GSWA representatives. Community Room in Chatham Township municipal building Free.

Thursday, March 27, 2008, 10 AM. Ground Water Protection Committee. Chatham Borough town hall. All welcome.

Friday, April 4, 2008. 6:30-8 PM, Harding Township municipal building, 21 Blue Mill Rd. **Be Heard!**, GSWA Citizen Advocacy Program. Free.

Sat., April 5, 2008. 8 AM-5 PM, Rutgers University School of Law, 123 Washington St., Newark. NJ Environmental Federation 22nd Annual Conference. Topics include global warming, pesticide and drug pollution of drinking water, Highlands Regional Master Plan. \$30. Info at www.cleanwateraction.org/njef.

May 2008. Mike Romankiewicz's Great Swamp Stream Monitoring Program.

Grants

CTEC was awarded a free copy of the GIS mapping program ArcView for 2008 from the ESRI Corporation.

Grant notice received from ANJEC for 2008 planning grants for NJ municipalities and counties. This is a pass-through grant from the Dodge Foundation. Acceptable projects include groundwater analysis, land use ordinances for green building and energy, plans for bike paths and trails, ordinances protecting steep slopes, stream corridors and well head area, regional plans to protect natural resources. Application form is in EC mailbox. Deadline is March 31, 2008.

Application/LOI Review

180 PARK AVE, FLORHAM PARK, Bl. 401 Lot 1 – 2-1-08. Application for NJDEP by Exxon Mobil Global Remediation for a flood hazard area, individual permit for remediation in a flood hazard zone. Project is environmental investigation and remediation pursuant to the NJ Voluntary Clean-up Program involving remedial excavation of sediment from bed of ditch. Location is at intersection of Park Ave. and entrance to Exxon tract. D. Stillinger and O. Raadam to review. OPEN

32 PARK VIEW ROAD, Block 113, Lot 115.10 – 2-12-08 Application to NJ DEP for General Permit for expansion of existing building. Property backs up to wetlands in Great Swamp Refuge and north corner is wetlands. D. Stillinger and O. Raadam to review. OPEN

ST. HUBERT'S ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER, Block 142, Lot 4.01 – 2-15-08 Application to NJ DEP for a Treatment Works Approval permit for a septic system receiving over 2,000 gallons per day. D. Stillinger. OPEN

55 MOUNTAIN AVE, Block 37, Lot 5.01 – 4/27/07 Majmudar. Application to Planning Board to construct one house with variances for front yard setback, house size. 11 trees proposed to be removed plus others along driveway. First application was rejected by Planning Board. PB subdivision approval for Bernardo in 2004 allows maximum 1500 sq ft house footprint, current applicant proposes 2236 sq ft house footprint plus 529 sq ft garage footprint. Site visit on Sat. 11-3-07 revealed shale just below the surface. CTEC application subcommittee memo to Planning Board was sent 10-4-07, approved by full commission 11-6-07. P. Payton. CTEC drafting a revised letter to Planning Bd. reiterating concerns with steep slopes, (asking for greater variance). L. Caprioglio will email comments from PB to CTEC members. PENDING

OAK KNOLL SCHOOL. 9-11-07. Public hearing was held on 9-11-07 concerning request to break the DEP conservation easement on the Oak Knoll school property at Hickory Tree in order to replace an existing stormwater pipe. DEP and Township engineer had no objection. CTEC is following this application. PENDING

Reports & Discussion

Rolling Knolls – continuation of sample testing – no readings at this time, 2nd phase to start during summer with public hearing hopefully during summer. S. Hoag

Highlands Council – S. Hoag motioned to approve letter to Highland Council, S. Carroll 2nd with all in favor.

Planning Board – Composing a letter to COAH – will distribute letter to EC members for their information. L. Caprioglio

Open Space – committee met with PSEG representative on bike/hike trails. PSEG concerned with potential trails running below high tension lines. Representative will discuss with land manager and PSEG regarding Township use.

Possibly another grant could be received - committee would like to suggest sidewalks around Shunpike area. S. Hoag

Township Committee – Resolution passed for bike path. Annual presentations to begin. Informed newspaper reporters at last meeting of upcoming Riverside cleanup and electronic recycling. Castle Park renovation has started, most trees have been saved. Local tax rate will not increase, although there is an increase with school and county taxes. W. O'Connor

Energy Subcommittee – pending response from ANJEC. S. Carroll

Education and Outreach Committee – State recycling policy was updated. Do not know at this time when Chatham Twp will update Township ordinance. - W. O'Connor to discuss with T. Ciccarone creating a recycling brochure for the construction department.

Anti-idling Campaign – new handout received – to be distributed to groups and organizations to distribute and encourage anti-idling. K. Abbott, P. Collington, S. Hoag

Ground Water Protection Committee – discussion on Highlands. P. Collington

Back2Tap Campaign – Collecting orders for reusable drinking bottle. K. Abbott

Artificial Turf – Discussed concerns on materials used to make artificial turf and the harmful effects to the environment, animals and people. Considering monitoring a field on a very hot day for toxin release.

Conservation Easements – Commission noted encroachment on two easements on property owned by Chatham Township, block 144, lot 39 on the north side of Green Village Road where clearing has occurred in the pond buffer behind the house, and block 48.17, lot 130.01 on the south side of Green Village Road where mowing has occurred in the 300 foot stream buffer and structures and objects have been placed in the easment area on Township property. Assessments continuing. Seventeen properties left to assess in the data collection project.

COAH letter approved with modifications. S. Hoag motioned to accept and S. Carroll 2nd with all in favor.

Sixth Annual Riverside Cleanup is Saturday, April 19, 2008 – 9:30-12:30

Spring Electronics Recycling is Saturday, May 3, 2008 – 9-12 – L. Tavtigian

SURVEY REQUEST

Essex County Department of Parks announced that the Essex County Environmental Center has received a grant from the National Parks Service to create a Passaic River Trail on the upper portion of the Passaic River. Phase 1 is to establish a list of existing launch sites. Request for Chatham Township to evaluate each existing and potential launch site. Public hearing will follow after launch site inventory is complete.

MAIL RECEIVED (not including applications and notices mentioned above)

- Morris County Soil Conservation District seedling sale order form. Available species are white pine, Colorado blue spruce, Norway spruce, common lilac, Kousa dogwood. \$10-12 for bundles of 5-10 seedlings. Pick up at Building 550, West Hanover Ave., Morris Township. Order deadline is Friday April 4.

CTEC meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary